

Workforce News

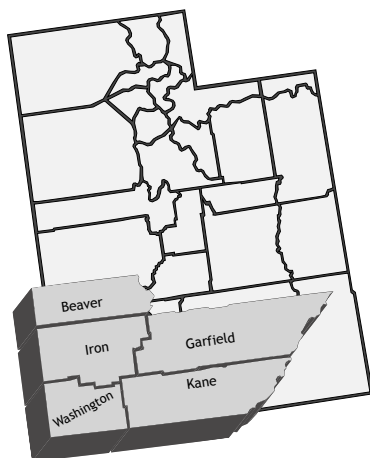
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Southwest: Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Washington

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Migrating Numbers



Inside:

✦ Is Washington County's building boom over?

✦ Job Growth



Contact the author, your regional economist, with any questions on content:

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It doesn't matter what you call them—illegal aliens, undocumented workers, unauthorized migrants—the immigrant situation has certainly taken its place in the forefront of media coverage. You might be wondering just how many undocumented aliens live in your particular area. That's a good question. . .and one that is not easily answered.

It's Not Easy. . .

Let's be honest. Just counting people is difficult. Think of the fuss every decade when the U.S. Census headcounts are compiled. Local areas are always disputing their particular figure. And, when it comes to numbering people who don't want to be counted because of their unauthorized status, the problem multiplies.

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Find your county's economic information at:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/counties>

Migrating Numbers

(continued)

That's why there are so many illegal alien counts for the U.S. floating about. Seven million, 9 million, 12 million—which number is correct? Well, in my unauthorized status as the data police, I can tell you that we just don't know. Sometimes Big Brother really isn't watching you.

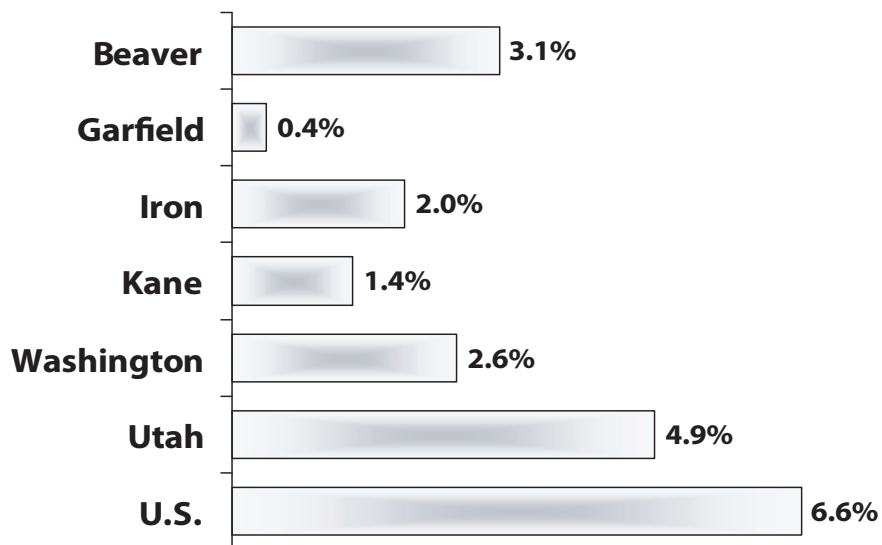
Recent Figures

Some of the most recent estimates of illegal aliens come from the Pew Hispanic Center. This nonprofit group's analysts used data from the Current Population Survey (the source of national/state unemployment rates) to make a U.S. estimate of 11 million unauthorized migrants in 2005. They also estimate that between 75,000 and 100,000 undocumented aliens make their home in Utah.

Using the Census

What about your county? Believe it or not, the decennial census is a fairly decent way to count non-citizens—although not necessarily their legal or illegal status. This is due to extraordinary measures census takers make to count everyone. Don't fill out your census form, and census takers are likely to show up on your doorstep. In 2000, roughly 5 percent of Utahns weren't citizens. And, the

2000 Noncitizens as a Share of Total Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Pew Hispanic Center estimates that nearly half of the non-citizen group is unauthorized. On the other hand, this nonprofit group also estimates that 40 percent of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. have entered the country just since 2000.

In the center of the state, all six counties showed non-citizen shares below the state average in 2000. Millard and Sanpete counties showed the highest shares of non-citizens at roughly 4 percent each. Piute County took the middle ground with about 2 percent in the non-citizen group. The remaining three counties—Juab, Sevier, and Wayne—revealed non-citizen shares of less than 1 percent.

For more information, see:

<http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=61>

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County News

Beaver County: Beaver County continued to pump out new jobs in the final quarter of 2005. December employment counts were up 5 percent from the previous year. Retail trade and leisure/hospitality services joined to create a large share of these new jobs. Not surprisingly, the county's unemployment rate had slipped to only 3.6 percent by March 2006. The county's two other indicators buoyed up the economic news. In the first quarter of 2006, construction permit values increased 72 percent while sales rose a respectable 11 percent in the final quarter of 2005.

Garfield County: By year-end, Garfield County's employment growth had ticked up a notch to almost 6 percent. The leisure/hospitality industry continues to spur this expansion. By March 2006, job gains have shoved Garfield County's perennially high jobless rate down to 5 percent—the lowest level in years. Construction seems unlikely to create new jobs—permitted values dropped 63 percent in the first quarter of 2006. On the other hand, sales grew roughly 11 percent in the final quarter of 2005.

Iron County: Iron County maintained its rapid employment expansion in the final quarter of 2005 with robust expansion near the 7-percent mark. Construction, manufacturing, retail trade and health/social services all joined in this job fest. Employer cries of labor shortage reflect this county's low 3.1-percent jobless rate in March 2006. There are certainly no worries yet in construction and sales. Both show marked increases.

Kane County: Kane County employment levels popped up a notch in the final quarter of 2005. At year-end, job growth was hovering near the 5-percent mark. And joblessness is near rock bottom—only 3.2 percent in March 2006. Construction permitting certainly hasn't taken a vacation. In the first quarter of 2006, permit values doubled the comparable 2005 figure while sales rose by almost one-fourth.

Washington County: Is Washington County's building boom over? The number of new homes permitted in the county dropped by one-third between the first quarters of 2005 and 2006. Even a substantial increase in nonresidential authorizations could keep total first quarter numbers in the black. However, employers are still searching for hiring relief in a labor market that is posting job growth near the 9-percent mark and shows an unemployment rate of only 2.7 percent. In addition, sales continue to boom.

What's Up?

✦ Red Cliffs Mall in Washington County announced that Dillard's will build a new 90,000-square-foot store at the north end of the mall. *The Spectrum*

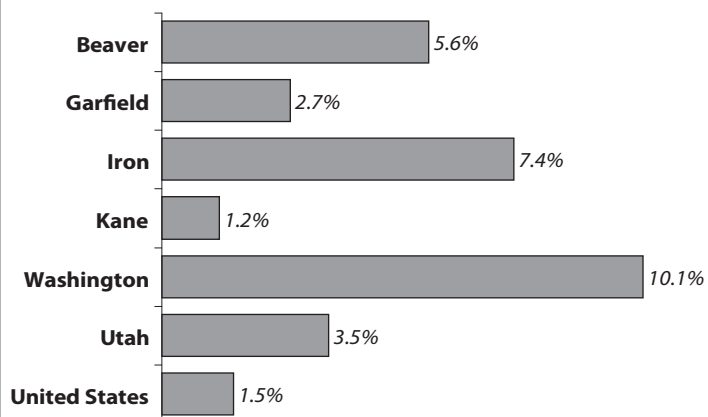
✦ McNeil Development announced their intention to develop 10,000 homes in Elim Valley along State Route 9 in the Hurricane area. *The Spectrum*

✦ Cedar City will receive a federal grant for \$1.71 million to help fund the renovation or construction of facilities for wastewater treatment or drinking water, environmental restoration and surface resource protection. *The Salt Lake Tribune.*

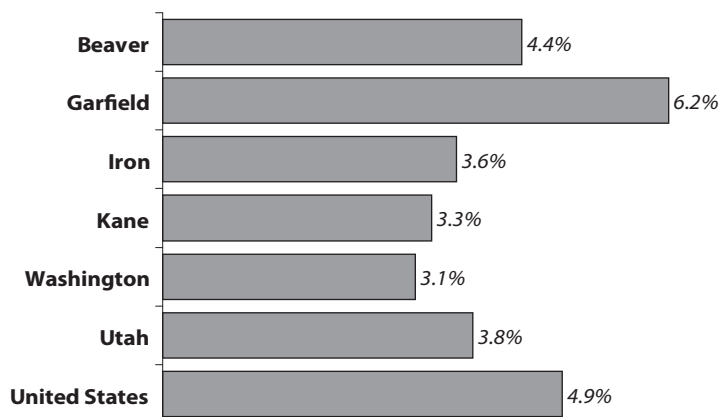
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**Change in Nonfarm Jobs
September 2004 to September 2005**



**Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
December 2006**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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